Provident Fund Dues in Orissa

250. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 8 crores, 12 lakhs and 40 thousand is due on account of Provident Fund in Orissa, as reported in Oriya daily "Samaj" dated 27.8.97; and

(b) what action has been taken against the defaulting owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. P. VERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary legal action has been initiated to recover the dues outstanding against 14 defaulting establishments. In the remaining six cases recovery proceedings have been stayed by the Hon'ble High Court.

Meetings of Tripartite Committees

251. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the Ministry-wise number of Tripartite Committees now in existence;

(b) the number of meetings held by each Committee during the last three years and number of members who attended the meetings;

(c) whether it is ensured that the decisions taken in the meetings of these Committees are implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to review the working of the Committees entrusted with the work of over-lapping nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. P. VERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Complaints against Hike in Monthly Contributions Under the ESIS

252. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a communication in February, 1997 complaining against hike in monthly contributions recovered from the labourers/workers and increase in the salary limit upto Rs. 6500/- p.m. under the Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. P. VERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Labour Ministers' Conference of major States in a meeting held on 4.10.1996 recommended enhancement of the wage ceiling for coverage under the ESI Scheme from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6,500/- per month. The Conference also recommended enhancement in the rate of contribution from 4% to 4.75% and from 1.5% to 1.75% of the monthly wage to be recovered from the employers and employees, respectively. The ESI Corporation also endorsed the proposals. The Central Government accepted the recommendation and enhanced the wage ceiling under the ESI Scheme from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6,500 per month with effect from 1.1.1997. The rates of contribution were also accordingly enhanced. A notification in this regard was issued by the Government on 23.12.1996. As the ESI Scheme provides a comprehensive social security and its benefits have now become available to 11.01 lakh additional workers, no further action in the matter is considered necessary.

Welfare of Beedi Workers in Orissa

253. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: